

Attorney Docket No. 301700-00066

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 2 - 4, 7 - 9, 16, 17 and 19 were allowable, supposing that certain recited informalities were cured and if these claims were rewritten to include the limitations of any base and intervening claims. To advance prosecution of this application, Applicant has accordingly amended the claims to cancel those which were rejected over the prior art in the Examiner's final action and to cure the objections of the Examiner to the other claims. In particular, Applicant has amended Claim 7 to independent form and to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled Claim 15. Applicant has amended Claim 16 to independent form and to incorporate the limitations of now-canceled Claim 18. All surviving claims now depend directly or indirectly from Claim 7 or Claim 16.

Relative to Claim 3, the Examiner objected to the description of the rim recited in this claim as being "inward", since the Examiner believed it should be "outward". There is some definitional confusion here which Applicant has attempted to correct. One inward/outward axis extends toward and away from the license plate, at least roughly in parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle. The innermost portion of the raised rim is indeed "inward" of the ribs along this axis. However, another inward/outward axis is orthogonal to the first. The raised rim is "outward" of, or in other words is peripheral to, the ribs in this second direction. Applicant has therefore amended Claim 3 to recite that the raised rim is "laterally exterior" to the ribs, as it indeed is. Applicant trusts that this amendment will clear up any ambiguity as to where the raised rim is.

Since all of the Examiner's remaining rejections and objections have now been met, Applicant earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance on the claims as amended.

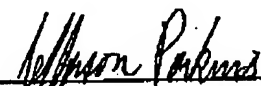
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No fee is believed due in connection with the filing of this Amendment After Final Rejection. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 503138 of Daspin & Aument, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



Jefferson Perkins
Registration No. 31,407

DASPIN & AUMENT, LLP
210 W. 22nd Street, Suite 102
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523
Telephone: (630) 990 4503